

Kripa Patwardhan, MPP, Parent and Youth Outreach Specialist, Edu-Futuro explained that her organization empowers immigrant communities: <https://edu-futuro.org/about-our-people/>
Dr. Rebecca Jackson introduced herself.

Oswaldo Moreno, Psychologist, Virginia Commonwealth University, introduced himself: <https://psychology.vcu.edu/people/faculty/moreno.html>

Monica Sarmiento, Executive Director, Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights introduced herself.

10:21 a.m. Administrative Update – Gloria Senecal

Introduced herself and talked about the importance of legal soundness, logistics, networking, and relationship building. Discussed the reimbursement procedure, reminded the Board of the January 27, 2023 meeting, and informed the Board of a Policy Webinar in early January.

10:27 a.m. Policy Team Brief – Michael Molina, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Described his duty as a federal government liaison and discussed procuring federal funds for Virginia. Informed that the Governor will open an office in Rosslyn and offered to be a resource.

10:32 a.m. Listening Session Recap – Joshua DeSilva

The Listening Session occurred on December 15th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. It was supposed to take place at CASA in Woodbridge but due to inclement weather it took place virtually.

Walewska Watkins discussed housing rent increases. Cecilia Williams stressed the lack of the availability of medical- and dental-resource information. Joshua DeSilva mentioned that the Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned Business (SWaM) certification program is complicated and not available in Spanish. Jo-Ann Chase addressed issues of the aging community. Rodrigo Soto addressed the lack of language access and the lack of government allocation of money. Astrid Gamez talked about passing on information about resources to the Hispanic community, which was a common and repeated theme during this discussion. Another theme was the lack of translation services. Lyons Sanchezconcha handed out notes that he took at the Listening Session.

11:00 a.m. Guest Speakers – Monica Sarmiento & Michael Hoefler

Monica Sarmiento, Executive Director, Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights
[Handout documents linked.](#)

Monica Sarmiento shared with the Board the history of VCHR and the fact that it collaborates with over 100 organizations. Discussed three topics: (1) English language learners, (2) scholarships for dreamers, and (3) affordable housing. For more information visit: <https://vchr.org/>

Michael Hoefler, Treasurer, Virginia Office of New Americans Advisory Board (ONAAB)
[Presentation slides linked.](#)

Michael Hoefler, a retired Chief Executive of the U.S. Customs & Immigration Services, gave a presentation based on statistics regarding immigration trends and potential reforms. Discussed the changing attitudes about immigration, the details behind the percentages of categories of immigrants, and the fiscal impact of immigration at the federal and state levels. For more information visit: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/onaab/>

12:15 p.m. Lunch

12:35 p.m. Chair's Report – Lyons Sanchezconcha

Asked for ongoing feedback as to how he and the other officers can better serve the Board, encouraged inviting speakers and guests, shared his vision for creating a pathway for leadership transition, and reminded the members of 2023 meeting dates.

12:43 p.m. Committee Reports

Business – Diana Patterson, Chair

Shared a list of items being considered: A business-idea-generating hotline, the continuation of free public transportation, funding for Small Business Development Centers, and licensing for foreign-educated medical practitioners and other professionals.

Education and Workforce – Yahusef Medina, Chair

Discussed DACA scholarships and collaboration with other boards, informed that he met with the Secretary of Education and Superintendent, and proposed the possibility of responding to the Administration's response to backlash over proposed history standards. For more information visit: <https://wtop.com/virginia/2022/11/governor-glenn-youngkin-responds-to-backlash-over-virginias-proposed-school-history-standards/>

Health – Cecilia Williams

Discussed health literacy and highlighted four topics: (1) the definition of health literacy, (2) assessment tools, (3) implementation of health literacy at various sites, and (4) culturally based monitoring and evaluation. Also discussed technical assistance, capacity building, and cultural tailoring. Mentioned the Administration's "Right help, Right Now" behavioral health plan: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2022/december/name-947166-en.html>, and stated that the \$230M allocated for mental health should be monitored to make sure it addresses the needs of multicultural communities.

Housing – Walewska Watkins, Chair

Discussed the upcoming transition of committee leadership, local deregulation and reform zoning and ordinances and how they affect the Latino community, the lack of funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund and how it may affect home ownership, and the importance of affordable housing.

1:09 p.m. Board Discussion and New Business – Joshua DeSilva

Discussed the need for a VLAB taskforce to examine the Administration's mental health plan and invited members to inform Joshua if interested.

1:10 p.m. Closing Remarks and Announcements – Lyons Sanchezconcha

Mentioned allowing more time for dialog. Meeting adjourned with no opposition (motion by Alexander Guzman; second by Rodrigo Soto)